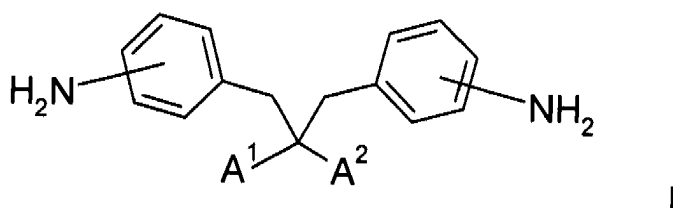


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

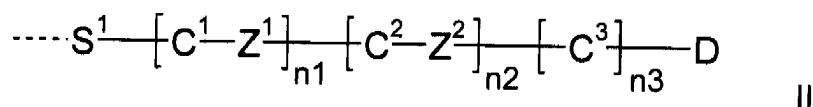
**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (canceled).
2. (canceled).
3. (previously presented): Diamine compounds represented by the general formula I:



wherein A<sup>1</sup> and A<sup>2</sup> each independently represent a mesogen group represented by general formula II:



wherein

C<sup>1</sup> to C<sup>3</sup> each independently represent an aromatic or an alicyclic group, which is unsubstituted or mono- or poly-substituted by a cyano group or by halogen atoms, or by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted,

mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, or by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by a group B;

D represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, or a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano or fluorine, chlorine, or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, or a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano or fluorine, chlorine, or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by a group B, or represents a organic group having a steroid skeleton;

S<sup>1</sup> represents a single bond or a spacer unit such a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by a cyano group or by halogen atoms, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, or a spacer unit which is straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by a cyano group or by halogen atoms, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by a group B;

Z1 , Z2 each independently of the other represent a single bond or a spacer unit which is straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or polysubstituted by a cyano group or by halogen atoms, having 1 to 8 carbon

atoms or a spacer unit such a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by a cyano group or by halogen atoms, having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent  $-CH_2-$  groups is independently replaced by a group B;

$n_1$  to  $n_3$  are each independently 0 or 1; and

B represents a group selected from  $-O-$ ,  $-CO-$ ,  $-CO-O-$ ,  $-O-CO-$ ,  $-NR^1-$ ,  $-NR^1-CO-$ ,  $-CO-NR^1-$ ,  $-NR^1-CO-O-$ ,  $-O-CO-NR^1-$ ,  $-NR^1-CO-NR^1-$ ,  $-CH=CH-$ ,  $-C\equiv C-$ ,  $-O-CO-O-$  and  $-Si(CH_3)_2-O-Si(CH_3)_2-$  and wherein  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

with the proviso that if  $n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 0$  then D is a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano or fluorine, chlorine, or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 5 to 24 carbon atoms or a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano or fluorine, chlorine, or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 5 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent  $-CH_2-$  groups is independently replaced by a group B, or represents a organic group having a steroid skeleton.

4. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein  $C^1$  to  $C^3$  are selected from pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, 1,4- or 2,6-naphthylene, decahydronaphthalin-2,6-diyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalin-2,6-diyl, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl and 1,4-phenylene, which is unsubstituted or substituted by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine having from 1 to

12 carbon atoms in which optionally one or more non-adjacent -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups are replaced by -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CH=CH- and -C≡C-.

5. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein C<sup>1</sup> to C<sup>3</sup> are selected from cyclohexane-1,4-diyl and 1,4-phenylene, which is unsubstituted or substituted by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue having 1 to 12 carbon atoms in which optionally one or more non-adjacent -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups are replaced by -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CH=CH- and -C≡C-.

6. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein D is a hydrogen atom, a fluoro atom, a chloro atom, a cyano group, a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano or fluorine, chlorine, or polysubstituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms or a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano or fluorine, chlorine, or polysubstituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent-CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-, -CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-O-, -O-CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C- and -O-CO-O-, wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or represents an organic group having a steroid skeleton.

7. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein D is a hydrogen atom, a fluoro atom, a chloro atom, a cyano group, a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue, having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue, having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C- and -O-CO-O-.

8. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein  $S^1$  is selected from a single covalent bond,  $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^1-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-$ , a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine and cyano, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, and a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine and cyano, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent  $-\text{CH}_2-$  groups is independently replaced by a group B, wherein  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

9. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein  $S^1$  is selected from a single covalent bond,  $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{CO}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{CO}-\text{O}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-\text{CO}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{CO}-\text{NR}^1-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{NR}^1-\text{CO}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{NR}^1-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^1-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^1-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^1-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{NR}^1-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^1-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-\text{CO}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_s-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_s-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_s-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{NR}^1-\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_s-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{NR}^1-\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_s-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_s\text{O}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_s\text{O}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_s\text{O}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{NR}^1-\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_s\text{O}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{NR}^1-\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_s\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_s-$  and  $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_s\text{O}-$ , wherein  $R^1$  is as defined above,  $r$  and  $s$  each represent an integer from 1 to 20 and  $r + s \leq 21$ .

10. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein  $S^1$  is selected from a single covalent bond,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{CO}-\text{O}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-\text{CO}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{CO}-\text{NH}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{NH}-\text{CO}-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-\text{NH}-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{O}-$ ,

-CO-NH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NH-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NH-CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-,  
-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NH-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NHCO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-,  
-CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, and -CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NH-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, wherein r and s each  
represent an integer from 1 to 12 and  $r + s \leq 15$ .

11. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein S<sup>1</sup>  
include 1,2-ethylene, 1,3-propylene, 1,4-butylene, 1,5-pentylene, 1,6-hexylene, 1,7-heptylene,  
1,8-octylene, 1,9-nonylene, 1,10-decylene, 1,11-undecylene, 1,12-dodecylene,  
3-methyl-1,4-butylene, 2-(methylenoxy)ethylene, 3-(methylenoxy)propylene,  
4-(methylenoxy)butylene, 5-(methylenoxy)pentylene, 6-(methylenoxy)hexylene,  
7-(methylenoxy)heptylene, 8-(methylenoxy)octylene, 9-(methylenoxy)nonylene,  
10-(methylenoxy)decylene, 11-(methylenoxy)undecylene, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecylene,  
2-(carbonyloxy)ethylene, 3-(carbonyloxy)propylene, 4-(carbonyloxy)butylene,  
5-(carbonyloxy)pentylene, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexylene, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptylene,  
8-(carbonyloxy)octylene, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonylene, 10-(carbonyloxy)decylene,  
11-(carbonyloxy)undecylene, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylene, 2-(carbonylamino)ethylene,  
3-(carbonylamino)propylene, 4-(carbonylamino)butylene, 5-(carbonylamino)pentylene,  
6-(carbonylamino)hexylene, 7-(carbonylamino)heptylene, 8-(carbonylamino)octylene,  
9-(carbonylamino)nonylene, 10-(carbonylamino)decylene, 11-(carbonylamino)undecylene,  
12-(carbonylamino)dodecylene, 3-propyleneoxy, 3-propyleneoxycarbonyl, 2-ethylenoyloxy,  
4-butylenoxy, 4-butylenoxycarbonyl, 3-propylenoyloxy, 5-pentylenoxy,  
5-pentylenoxycarbonyl, 4-butylenoyloxy, 6-hexylenoxy, 6-hexylenoxycarbonyl,  
5-pentylenoyloxy, 7-heptylenoxy, 7-heptylenoxycarbonyl, 6-hexylenoyloxy, 8-octylenoxy,

8-octyleneoxycarbonyl, 7-heptylenoyloxy, 9-nonyleneoxy, 9-nonyleneoxycarbonyl,  
8-octylenoyloxy, 10-decyleneoxy, 10-decyleneoxycarbonyl, 9-nonylenoyloxy,  
11-undecyleneoxy, 11-undecyleneoxycarbonyl, 10-decylenoyloxy, 12-dodecyleneoxy,  
12-dodecyleneoxycarbonyl, 11-undecylenoyloxy, 3-propyleneaminocarbonyl,  
4-butylenaminocarbonyl, 5-pentyleneaminocarbonyl, 6-hexyleneaminocarbonyl,  
7-heptyleneaminocarbonyl, 8-octyleneaminocarbonyl, 9-nonyleneaminocarbonyl,  
10-decyleneaminocarbonyl, 11-undecyleneaminocarbonyl, 12-dodecyleneaminocarbonyl,  
2-ethylenecarbonylamino, 3-propylenecarbonylamino, 4-butylenecarbonylamino,  
5-pentylenecarbonylamino, 6-hexylenecarbonylamino, 7-heptylenecarbonylamino,  
8-octylenecarbonylamino, 9-nonylenecarbonylamino, 10-decylenecarbonylamino,  
11-undecylenecarbonylamino, 2-(methylenoxy)ethanoyloxy, 3-(methylenoxy)propyloxy,  
3-(methylenoxy)propyloxycarbonyl, 4-(methylenoxy)butyloxy,  
4-(methylenoxy)butyloxycarbonyl, 3-(methylenoxy)propanoyloxy, 5-(methylenoxy)pentyloxy,  
5-(methylenoxy)pentyloxycarbonyl, 4-(methylenoxy)butanoyloxy, 6-(methylenoxy)hexyloxy,  
6-(methylenoxy)hexyloxycarbonyl, 5-(methylenoxy)pentanoyloxy, 7-(methylenoxy)heptyloxy,  
7-(methylenoxy)heptyloxycarbonyl, 6-(methylenoxy)hexanoyloxy, 8-(methylenoxy)octyloxy,  
8-(methylenoxy)octyloxycarbonyl, 7-(methylenoxy)heptanoyloxy, 9-(methylenoxy)nonyloxy,  
9-(methylenoxy)nonyloxycarbonyl, 8-(methylenoxy)octanoyloxy, 10-(methylenoxy)decyloxy,  
10-(methylenoxy)decyloxycarbonyl, 9-(methylenoxy)nonanoyloxy,  
11-(methylenoxy)undecyloxy, 11-(methylenoxy)undecyloxycarbonyl,  
10-(methylenoxy)decanoyloxy, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecyloxy,  
12-(methylenoxy)dodecyloxycarbonyl, 11-(methylenoxy)undecanoyloxy,  
3-(methylenoxy)propylaminocarbonyl, 4-(methylenoxy)butylaminocarbonyl,

5-(methylenoxy)pentylaminocarbonyl, 6-(methylenoxy)hexylaminocarbonyl,  
7-(methylenoxy)heptylaminocarbonyl, 8-(methylenoxy)octylaminocarbonyl,  
9-(methylenoxy)nonylaminocarbonyl, 10-(methylenoxy)decylaminocarbonyl,  
11-(methylenoxy)undecylaminocarbonyl, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl,  
2-(methylenoxy)ethanoylamino, 3-(methylenoxy)propanoylamino,  
4-(methylenoxy)butanoylamino, 5-(methylenoxy)pentanoylamino,  
6-(methylenoxy)hexanoylamino, 7-(methylenoxy)heptanoylamino,  
8-(methylenoxy)octanoylamino, 9-(methylenoxy)nonanoylamino,  
10-(methylenoxy)decanoylamino, 11-(methylenoxy)undecanoylamino, 12-  
(methylenoxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethanoyloxy, 3-(carbonyloxy)propyloxy,  
3-(carbonyloxy)propyloxycarbonyl, 4-(carbonyloxy)butyloxy, 4-(carbonyloxy)butyloxycarbonyl,  
3-(carbonyloxy)propanoyloxy, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentyloxy, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentyloxycarbonyl,  
4-(carbonyloxy)butanoyloxy, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexyloxy, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexyloxycarbonyl,  
5-(carbonyloxy)pentanoyloxy, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptyloxy, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptyloxycarbonyl,  
6-(carbonyloxy)hexanoyloxy, 8-(carbonyloxy)octyloxy, 8-(carbonyloxy)octyloxycarbonyl,  
7-(carbonyloxy)heptanoyloxy, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonyloxy, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonyloxycarbonyl,  
8-(carbonyloxy)octanoyloxy, 10-(carbonyloxy)decyloxy, 10-(carbonyloxy)decyloxycarbonyl,  
9-(carbonyloxy)nonanoyloxy, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecyloxy,  
11-(carbonyloxy)undecyloxycarbonyl, 10-(carbonyloxy)decanoyloxy,  
12-(carbonyloxy)dodecyloxy, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecyloxycarbonyl,  
11-(carbonyloxy)undecanoyloxy, 3-(carbonyloxy)propylaminocarbonyl,  
4-(carbonyloxy)butylaminocarbonyl, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentylaminocarbonyl,  
6-(carbonyloxy)hexylaminocarbonyl, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptylaminocarbonyl,



8-(carbonyloxy)octylaminocarbonyl, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonylaminocarbonyl,  
10-(carbonyloxy)decylaminocarbonyl, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecylaminocarbonyl,  
12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethanoylamino,  
3-(carbonyloxy)propanoylamino, 4-(carbonyloxy)butanoylamino,  
5-(carbonyloxy)pentanoylamino, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexanoylamino,  
7-(carbonyloxy)heptanoylamino, 8-(carbonyloxy)octanoylamino,  
9-(carbonyloxy)nonanoylamino, 10-(carbonyloxy)decanoylamino,  
11-(carbonyloxy)undecanoylamino, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl  
6-(3-propyleneaminocarbonyloxy)hexylene, 6-(3-propyleneoxy)hexylene,  
6-(3-propyleneoxy)hexyloxy, 6-(3-propyleneaminocarbonyloxy)hexyloxy,  
6-(3-propyleneaminocarbonyl)hexyl, 6-(3-propyleneaminocarbonyl)hexyloxy,  
2-(1-methyleneoxy)ethyloxycarbonyloxy, 3-(1-methyleneoxy)propyloxycarbonyloxy,  
6-(1-methyleneoxy)hexyloxycarbonyloxy, 2-(1-methyleneoxycarbonyl)ethylene,  
3-(1-methyleneoxycarbonyl)propyloxycarbonyloxy,  
6-(1-methyleneoxycarbonyl)hexyloxycarbonyloxy, 6-(3-propyleneoxycarbonyloxy)hexylene,  
6-(3-propyleneoxycarbonyl)hexylene, 2-(1-methyleneaminocarbonyl)ethylene,  
3-(1-methyleneaminocarbonyl)propylene, 6-(1-methyleneaminocarbonyl)hexylene, and  
6-(3-propyleneaminocarbonyloxy)hexylene, 6-(3-propyleneaminocarbonyl)hexylene.

12. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein Z<sup>1</sup> and Z<sup>2</sup> are selected from a single covalent bond, a spacer unit such as a straight-chain or branched alkylene group, which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluoro atoms, having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and a spacer unit which is a straight-chain or branched alkylene group, which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluoro atoms, having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein

one or more non-adjacent  $\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$  groups is independently replaced by a group selected from  $\text{-O-}$ ,  $\text{-CO-}$ ,  $\text{-CO-O-}$ ,  $\text{-O-CO-}$ ,  $\text{-NR}^1\text{-CO-}$ ,  $\text{-CO-NR}^1\text{-}$ ,  $\text{-CH=CH-}$ ,  $\text{-C}\equiv\text{C-}$ , and wherein  $\text{R}^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

13. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein  $\text{Z}^1$  and  $\text{Z}^2$  are selected from a single covalent bond, a spacer unit such a straight-chain or branched alkylene group having 1 to 4 carbon atom, and a spacer unit which is straight-chain or branched alkylene group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, wherein one or two non-adjacent  $\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$  groups is independently replaced by a group selected from  $\text{-O-}$ ,  $\text{-CO-}$ ,  $\text{-CO-O-}$ ,  $\text{-O-CO-}$ .

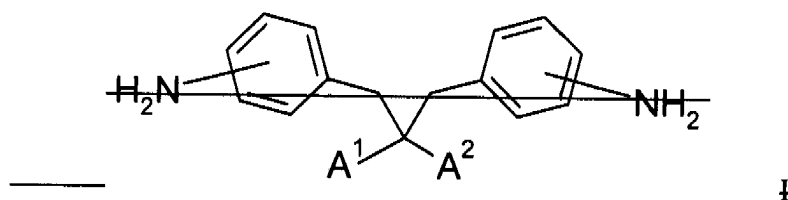
14. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein  $n_2 = 1$  and  $n_3 = 1$ .

15. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein  $n_1 = 0$  with  $n_2 = 1$  and  $n_3 = 1$ .

16. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein D is an organic group having a steroid skeleton if  $n_1 + n_2 + n_3 = 0$ .

17. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein the steroid skeleton is a 3-cholesteryl or a 3-cholestanyl residue.

18. (currently amended): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, ~~represented by the general formula I:~~



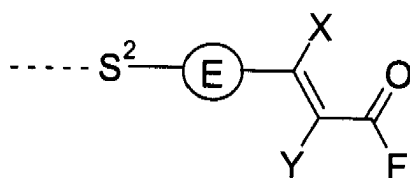
wherein A<sup>1</sup> and A<sup>2</sup> each independently represent a photoreactive group which can be photoisomerized on exposure to UV or laser light.

19. (original): Diamine compounds according to claim 18, wherein the photoreactive groups are able to undergo photocyclization, in particular [2+2]-photocyclization.

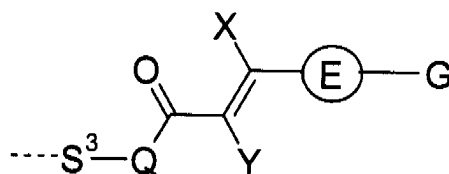
20. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 18, wherein the photoreactive groups are sensitive to UV or laser light, in particular linearly polarized UV light.

21. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 18, wherein the photoreactive groups include cinnamates, benzylidenephthalimidines, benzylideneacetophones, diphenylacetylenes stilbazoles, uracyl, quinolinone, maleinimides, or cinnamylidene acetic acid derivatives.

22. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 18, wherein the photoreactive groups are represented by general formulae IIIa and IIIb:



IIIa



IIIb

wherein

E represents pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, 2,5-thiophenylene, 2,5-furanylene, 1,4- or 2,6-naphthylene, or phenylene, which is unsubstituted or

mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, or by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently be replaced by a group B as defined hereinabove;

F represents -OR<sup>2</sup>, -NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup> or an oxygen atom, which defines together with the ring E a coumarin unit, wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are selected from hydrogen, a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by a group J, or R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together form a C<sub>5-8</sub> alicyclic ring; wherein

J represents a group selected from -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-, -CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-O-, -O-CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -O-CO-O- and -Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-O-Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-, an aromatic or an alicyclic group, and wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

- G represents a hydrogen atom, or a halogen atom, a straight-chain or branched alkyl group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by cyano, fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, or a straight-chain or branched alkyl group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by cyano, fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by a group J, with the proviso that oxygen atoms are not directly attached to each other;
- S<sup>2</sup>, S<sup>3</sup> each independently of the other represent a single bond, a spacer unit which is a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or polysubstituted by fluorine, chlorine, or cyano, having 1 to 40 carbon atoms, or a spacer unit which is a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, or cyano, having 1 to 40 carbon atoms, wherein one or more -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by a group J, with the proviso that oxygen atoms are not directly attached to each other;
- Q represents an oxygen atom or -NR<sup>1</sup>- wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;
- X, Y each independently of the other represents hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, cyano, alkyl optionally substituted by fluorine having 1 to 12 carbon atoms in which optionally one or more non-adjacent alkyl -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups are replaced by -O-, -CO-O-, -O-CO- and/or -CH=CH-.

23. (original): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein E is selected from pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, 2,5-thiophenylene, 2,5-furanylene, 1,4- or 2,6-naphthylene and phenylene, which is unsubstituted or substituted by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine having 1 to 12 carbon atoms in which optionally one or more non-adjacent alkyl -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups are replaced by -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CH=CH- and -C≡C-.

24. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein E is selected from 2,5-furanylene, 1,4- or 2,6-naphthylene and phenylene, which is unsubstituted or substituted by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue having 1 to 12 carbon atoms in which optionally one or more non-adjacent alkyl -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups are replaced by -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CH=CH- and -C≡C-.

25. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein F is selected from -OR<sup>2</sup> and -NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represent a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, cyano, having 1 to 18 carbons atoms or a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly- substituted by fluorine, chlorine, cyano, having 1 to 18 carbons atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent alkyl -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by -O- or -CH=CH-, wherein R<sup>4</sup> is selected from a hydrogen atom, a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, cyano, having 1 to 18 carbons atoms or a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly- substituted by fluorine, chlorine, cyano, having 1 to 18 carbons atoms, wherein

one or more non-adjacent -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by -O- or -CH=CH-, or R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> together to form a C<sub>5-8</sub> alicyclic ring.

26. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein F is selected from the group comprising -OR<sup>2</sup> or -NHR<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represent a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine atoms, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms or a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly- substituted by fluorine atoms, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by -O-.

27. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein G is a hydrogen atom, or fluorine atom, or chlorine atom, a straight-chain or branched alkyl group which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano, fluorine or chlorine or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, or a straight-chain or branched alkyl group which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano, fluorine or chlorine or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein one or more -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-, -CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-O-, -O-CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C- and -O-CO-O-, an aromatic or an alicyclic group, with the proviso that oxygen atoms are not directly attached to each other, and wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

28. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein G is a hydrogen atom, a straight-chain or branched alkyl group having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, or a straight-chain or branched alkyl group having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-

adjacent -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-, -NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-, -CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, and -O-CO-O-, with the proviso that oxygen atoms are not directly attached to each other, and wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

29. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S<sup>2</sup> is selected from a single covalent bond, -CO-O-, -CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -CO-, a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, or cyano, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, and a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, or cyano, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by a group J, with the proviso that oxygen atoms are not directly attached to each other, wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

30. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S<sup>2</sup> is selected from a single covalent bond, -CO-O-, -CO-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-CO-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-CO-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-CO-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-, -CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-, -CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-, -CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-CO-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NR<sup>1</sup>-CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, -CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>- and



-CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is as defined above, r and s each represent an integer from 1 to 20, and r + s ≤ 21.

31. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S<sup>2</sup> is selected from a single covalent bond, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-CO-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-CO-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-CO-NH-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NH-CO-, -CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-, -CO-NH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-, -CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-, -CO-NH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NH-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NH-CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NH-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NH-CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, -CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, and -CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-NH-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-O-, wherein r and s each represent an integer from 1 to 12 and r + s ≤ 15.

32. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S<sup>2</sup> include 1,2-ethylen, 1,3-propylen, 1,4-butylen, 1,5-pentylen, 1,6-hexylen, 1,7-heptylen, 1,8-octylen, 1,9-nonylen, 1,10-decylen, 1,11-undecylen, 1,12-dodecylen, 3-methyl-1,4-butylen, 2-(methylenoxy)ethylen, 3-(methylenoxy)propylen, 4-(methylenoxy)butylen, 5-(methylenoxy)pentylen, 6-(methylenoxy)hexylen, 7-(methylenoxy)heptylen, 8-(methylenoxy)octylen, 9-(methylenoxy)nonylen, 10-(methylenoxy)decylen, 11-(methylenoxy)undecylen, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecylen, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethylen, 3-(carbonyloxy)propylen, 4-(carbonyloxy)butylen, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentylen, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexylen, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptylen, 8-(carbonyloxy)octylen, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonylen, 10-(carbonyloxy)decylen, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecylen, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylen, 2-(carbonylamino)ethylen, 3-(carbonylamino)propylen, 4-(carbonylamino)butylen, 5-(carbonylamino)pentylen, 6-(carbonylamino)hexylen, 7-(carbonylamino)heptylen, 8-(carbonylamino)octylen, 9-(carbonylamino)nonylen,

10-(carbonylamino)decylen, 11-(carbonylamino)undecylen, 12-(carbonylamino)dodecylen,  
3-propylenoxy, 3-propylenoxycarbonyl, 2-ethylenoxy, 4-butylenoxy, 4-butylenoxycarbonyl,  
3-propylenoxy, 5-pentylenoxy, 5-pentylenoxycarbonyl, 4-butylenoxy, 6-hexylenoxy,  
6-hexylenoxycarbonyl, 5-pentylenoxy, 7-heptylenoxy, 7-heptylenoxycarbonyl,  
6-hexylenoxy, 8-octylenoxy, 8-octylenoxycarbonyl, 7-heptylenoxy, 9-nonylenoxy,  
9-nonylenoxycarbonyl, 8-octylenoxy, 10-decylenoxy, 10-decylenoxycarbonyl,  
9-nonylenoxy, 11-undecylenoxy, 11-undecylenoxycarbonyl, 10-decylenoxy,  
12-dodecylenoxy, 12-dodecylenoxycarbonyl, 11-undecylenoxy, 3-propylenaminocarbonyl,  
4-butylenaminocarbonyl, 5-pentylenaminocarbonyl, 6-hexylenaminocarbonyl,  
7-heptylenaminocarbonyl, 8-octylenaminocarbonyl, 9-nonylenaminocarbonyl,  
10-decylenaminocarbonyl, 11-undecylenaminocarbonyl, 12-dodecylenaminocarbonyl,  
2-ethylenoylamino, 3-propylenoylamino, 4-butylenoylamino, 5-pentylenoylamino,  
6-hexylenoylamino, 7-heptylenoylamino, 8-octylenoylamino, 9-nonylenoylamino,  
10-decylenoylamino, 11-undecylenoylamino, 2-(methylenoxy)ethanoyloxy ,  
3-(methylenoxy)propyloxy, 3-(methylenoxy)propyloxycarbonyl, 4-(methylenoxy)butyloxy,  
4-(methylenoxy)butyloxycarbonyl, 3-(methylenoxy)propanoyloxy, 5-(methylenoxy)pentyloxy,  
5-(methylenoxy)pentyloxycarbonyl, 4-(methylenoxy)butanoyloxy, 6-(methylenoxy)hexyloxy,  
6-(methylenoxy)hexyloxycarbonyl, 5-(methylenoxy)pentanoyloxy, 7-(methylenoxy)heptyloxy,  
7-(methylenoxy)heptyloxycarbonyl, 6-(methylenoxy)hexanoyloxy, 8-(methylenoxy)octyloxy,  
8-(methylenoxy)octyloxycarbonyl, 7-(methylenoxy)heptanoyloxy, 9-(methylenoxy)nonyloxy,  
9-(methylenoxy)nonyloxycarbonyl, 8-(methylenoxy)octanoyloxy, 10-(methylenoxy)decyloxy,  
10-(methylenoxy)decyloxycarbonyl, 9-(methylenoxy)nonanoyloxy,  
11-(methylenoxy)undecyloxy, 11-(methylenoxy)undecyloxycarbonyl,

10-(methylenoxy)decanoyloxy, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecyloxy,  
12-(methylenoxy)dodecyloxy carbonyl, 11-(methylenoxy)undecanoyloxy,  
3-(methylenoxy)propylaminocarbonyl, 4-(methylenoxy)butylaminocarbonyl,  
5-(methylenoxy)pentylaminocarbonyl, 6-(methylenoxy)hexylaminocarbonyl,  
7-(methylenoxy)heptylaminocarbonyl, 8-(methylenoxy)octylaminocarbonyl,  
9-(methylenoxy)nonylaminocarbonyl, 10-(methylenoxy)decylaminocarbonyl,  
11-(methylenoxy)undecylaminocarbonyl, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl,  
2-(methylenoxy)ethanoylamino, 3-(methylenoxy)propanoylamino,  
4-(methylenoxy)butanoylamino, 5-(methylenoxy)pentanoylamino,  
6-(methylenoxy)hexanoylamino, 7-(methylenoxy)heptanoylamino,  
8-(methylenoxy)octanoylamino, 9-(methylenoxy)nonanoylamino,  
10-(methylenoxy)decanoylamino, 11-(methylenoxy)undecanoylamino, 12-  
(methylenoxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethanoyloxy, 3-(carbonyloxy)propyloxy,  
3-(carbonyloxy)propyloxy carbonyl, 4-(carbonyloxy)butyloxy, 4-(carbonyloxy)butyloxy carbonyl,  
3-(carbonyloxy)propanoyloxy, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentyloxy, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentyloxy carbonyl,  
4-(carbonyloxy)butanoyloxy, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexyloxy, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexyloxy carbonyl,  
5-(carbonyloxy)pentanoyloxy, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptyloxy, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptyloxy carbonyl,  
6-(carbonyloxy)hexanoyloxy, 8-(carbonyloxy)octyloxy, 8-(carbonyloxy)octyloxy carbonyl,  
7-(carbonyloxy)heptanoyloxy, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonyloxy, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonyloxy carbonyl,  
8-(carbonyloxy)octanoyloxy, 10-(carbonyloxy)decyloxy, 10-(carbonyloxy)decyloxy carbonyl,  
9-(carbonyloxy)nonanoyloxy, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecyloxy,  
11-(carbonyloxy)undecyloxy carbonyl, 10-(carbonyloxy)decanoyloxy,  
12-(carbonyloxy)dodecyloxy, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecyloxy carbonyl,

11-(carbonyloxy)undecanoyloxy, 3-(carbonyloxy)propylaminocarbonyl,  
4-(carbonyloxy)butylaminocarbonyl, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentylaminocarbonyl,  
6-(carbonyloxy)hexylaminocarbonyl, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptylaminocarbonyl,  
8-(carbonyloxy)octylaminocarbonyl, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonylaminocarbonyl,  
10-(carbonyloxy)decylaminocarbonyl, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecylaminocarbonyl,  
12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethanoylamino,  
3-(carbonyloxy)propanoylamino, 4-(carbonyloxy)butanoylamino,  
5-(carbonyloxy)pentanoylamino, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexanoylamino,  
7-(carbonyloxy)heptanoylamino, 8-(carbonyloxy)octanoylamino,  
9-(carbonyloxy)nonanoylamino, 10-(carbonyloxy)decanoylamino,  
11-(carbonyloxy)undecanoylamino, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl,  
6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyloxy)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenoxy)hexylen,  
6-(3-propylenoxy)hexyloxy, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyloxy)hexyloxy,  
6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyl)hexyl, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyl)hexyloxy,  
2-(methylenoxy)ethyloxycarbonyloxy, 3-(methylenoxy)propyloxycarbonyloxy,  
6-(methylenoxy)hexyloxycarbonyloxy, 2-(methylenoxycarbonyl)ethylen,  
3-(methylenoxycarbonyl)propyloxycarbonyloxy,  
6-(methylenoxycarbonyl)hexyloxycarbonyloxy, 6-(3-propylenoxycarbonyloxy)hexylen,  
6-(3-propylenoxycarbonyl)hexylen, 2-(methylenaminocarbonyl)ethylen,  
3-(methylenaminocarbonyl)propylen, 6-(methylenaminocarbonyl)hexylen,  
6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyloxy)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyl)hexylen,  
4-[[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]oxy}phenylen, 4-[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]cyclohexylen,  
3-methoxy-4-[[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]oxy}phenylen,

4-[[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]oxy}phenylcarbonyloxy,  
4-[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]cyclohexanoyloxy,  
3-ethoxy-4-[[8-(methylenoxy)octyl]oxy}phenylcarbonyloxy,  
4-[3-(carbonyloxy)propyl]phenylen, 4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]phenylen,  
4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]cyclohexylen, 3-methoxy-4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]phenylen,  
4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]phenylcarbonyloxy, 4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]cyclohexanoyloxy,  
3-ethoxy-4-[8-(carbonyloxy)octyl]phenylcarbonyloxy,  
2-{4-4-{2-(methylenoxy)ethyl}cyclohexyl}phenyl}ethoxy, 1-[4'-{[4-(methylenoxy)butyl]oxy}-  
1,1'biphenyl-4-yl]carbonyloxy, 1-{4-[4-{2-(methylenoxy)ethoxy}phenyl}methyloxy,  
2-{4-[4-(2-carbonyloxyethyl) cyclohexyl]phenyl}ethoxy, 2-[4'-(4-  
carbonyloxybutyl)-1,1'biphenylen-4-yl]ethoxy, 6-{4-[4-(2-carbonyloxyethyl)phenyl}hexyloxy,  
and 5-{[4'-[4-(methylenoxy)butoxy]]-1,1'-biphenyl-4-yl]oxy}pentanoyloxy.

33. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S<sup>3</sup> is selected from -CO-O-, -CO-NR<sup>1</sup>-, -CO-, a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, or cyano, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, and a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, or cyano, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups is independently replaced by a group J, with the proviso that oxygen atoms are not directly attached to each other, wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

34. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S<sup>3</sup> is selected from a single covalent bond, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-, -CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-, -CO-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-, -CO-NR<sup>1</sup>

$-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{-O-(CH}_2)_s-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{-CO-O-(CH}_2)_s-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{-O-CO-(CH}_2)_s-$ ,  
 $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{-NR}^1\text{-CO-(CH}_2)_s-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{-NR}^1\text{-CO-O-(CH}_2)_s-$ , and  $-\text{CO-O-(CH}_2)_r\text{-O-(CH}_2)_s-$ ,

wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is as defined herein above;  $r$  and  $s$  each represent an integer from 1 to 20; and  $r + s \leq 21$ .

35. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein  $\text{S}^3$  include 1,2-ethylen, 1,3-propylen, 1,4-butylen, 1,5-pentylen, 1,6-hexylen, 1,7-heptylen, 1,8-octylen, 1,9-nonylen, 1,10-decylen, 1,11-undecylen, 1,12-dodecylen, 3-methyl-1,4-butylen, 2-(methylenoxy)ethylen, 3-(methylenoxy)propylen, 4-(methylenoxy)butylen, 5-(methylenoxy)pentylen, 6-(methylenoxy)hexylen, 7-(methylenoxy)heptylen, 8-(methylenoxy)octylen, 9-(methylenoxy)nonylen, 10-(methylenoxy)decylen, 11-(methylenoxy)undecylen, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecylen, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethylen, 3-(carbonyloxy)propylen, 4-(carbonyloxy)butylen, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentylen, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexylen, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptylen, 8-(carbonyloxy)octylen, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonylen, 10-(carbonyloxy)decylen, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecylen, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylen, 2-(carbonylamino)ethylen, 3-(carbonylamino)propylen, 4-(carbonylamino)butylen, 5-(carbonylamino)pentylen, 6-(carbonylamino)hexylen, 7-(carbonylamino)heptylen, 8-(carbonylamino)octylen, 9-(carbonylamino)nonylen, 10-(carbonylamino)decylen, 11-(carbonylamino)undecylen, 12-(carbonylamino)dodecylen, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyloxy)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenoxy)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyl)hexyl, 2-(methylenoxycarbonyl)ethylen, 6-(3-propylenoxycarbonyloxy)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenoxycarbonyl)hexylen, 2-(methylenaminocarbonyl)ethylen, 3-(methylenaminocarbonyl)propylen,

6-(methylenaminocarbonyl)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyloxy)hexylen,  
6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyl)hexylen, 4-[[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]oxy]phenylen,  
4-[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]cyclohexylen, 3-methoxy-4-[[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]oxy]phenylen,  
4-[3-(carbonyloxy)propyl]phenylen, 4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]phenylen, and  
4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]cyclohexylen, 3-methoxy- 4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]phenylen.

36. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein Q is an oxygen atom or -NH-.

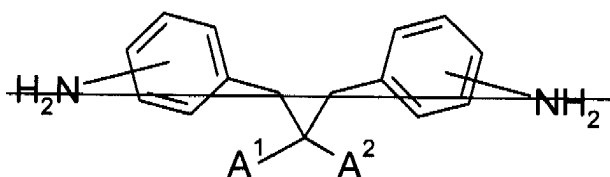
37. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein Q is an oxygen atom.

38. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein X and Y represent hydrogen.

39. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein the photoactive groups are groups of formula IIIa.

40. (previously presented): Method of using a diamine compound according to claim 22, comprising providing the diamine compound as precursor for the production of liquid crystal alignment layers.

41. (currently amended): A liquid crystal orientation material obtained by the reaction of a diamine compound according to claim 3 ~~of general formula I:~~



I

wherein

~~A<sup>1</sup> represents an organic group of 1 to 40 carbon atoms;~~

~~A<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an organic group of 1 to 40 carbon atoms.~~

42. (canceled).
43. (canceled).
44. (canceled).
45. (canceled).
46. (canceled).
47. (canceled).
48. (canceled).
49. (canceled).
50. (canceled).
51. (canceled).
52. (canceled).
53. (canceled).
54. (canceled).
55. (canceled).
56. (canceled).
57. (canceled).
58. (canceled).
59. (canceled).
60. (canceled).
61. (canceled).
62. (canceled).



- 63. (canceled).
- 64. (canceled).
- 65. (canceled).
- 66. (canceled).
- 67. (canceled).